



**CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT**

1331 Concord Avenue
P.O. Box H2O
Concord, CA 94524
(510) 688-8000 FAX (510) 688-8122

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MAY 14 1998

May 12, 1998

Directors

Joseph L. Campbell
President

James Pretti
Vice President

Elizabeth R. Anello

Bette Boatman

Noble O. Elcenko, D.C.

Walter J. Bishop
General Manager

Mr. Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Draft Watershed Management Strategy in May 14, 1998 BDAC
Agenda Package**

Dear Mr. Snow:

Contra Costa Water District is very concerned about the water quality impacts in the Delta that can be expected to occur from increases in pollutant loads to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its tributaries because of the forecasted urban and industrial development in the Central Valley through 2030 and beyond. The Draft CALFED Watershed Management Strategy (dated February 18, 1998) included in the agenda package for the May 14, 1988 BDAC meeting deals with a number of important watershed management actions but does not specifically address projected increases in urban and industrial wastewater discharge and agricultural drainage. Most of these projected increases in pollutant discharges are likely to be upstream of drinking water intakes. New sources of salt, organic carbon, pathogens and metals from the estimated five million new inhabitants in the Central Valley could lead to significant degradation in water quality and reduce or nullify CALFED's efforts to improve drinking water quality for over 20 million Californians.

The District requests that CALFED also address the incremental degradation in water quality from the forecasted development and population growth in the Central Valley and develop watershed-wide programs to address and significantly reduce these cumulative impacts on water quality. This is critical for protecting Delta water quality in the future and CALFED should assume a leadership role in addressing this problem. CALFED's member agencies, such as the California State Water Resources Control Board and its Regional Water Quality Control Boards, should begin immediately to take actions to reduce the discharge of urban, industrial and agricultural waste into the Bay-Delta system. Any new projects or expansions of existing projects that have the potential to degrade water quality in the Delta should be required to fully eliminate their impacts through mitigation actions. Another approach would be to set total load limits for each watershed based on current or lower levels and require new projects to obtain pollution credits from existing dischargers to remain below those limits.

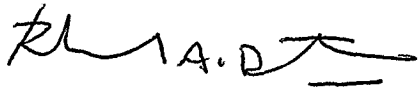
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Mr. Lester Snow
Draft Watershed Management Strategy in May 14, 1998 BDAC Agenda Package
May 12, 1998
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If you have any questions, please call me at (925) 688-8187.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.A. Denton", with a horizontal line underneath.

Richard A. Denton
Water Resources Manager

cc: John P. Caffrey (SWRCB)
Gary M. Carlton (CVRWQCB)
Rick Woodard (CALFED)
Judy Heath (CALFED)



DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

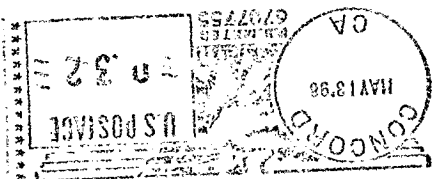
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MAY 14 1998

CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524



Mr. Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814



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